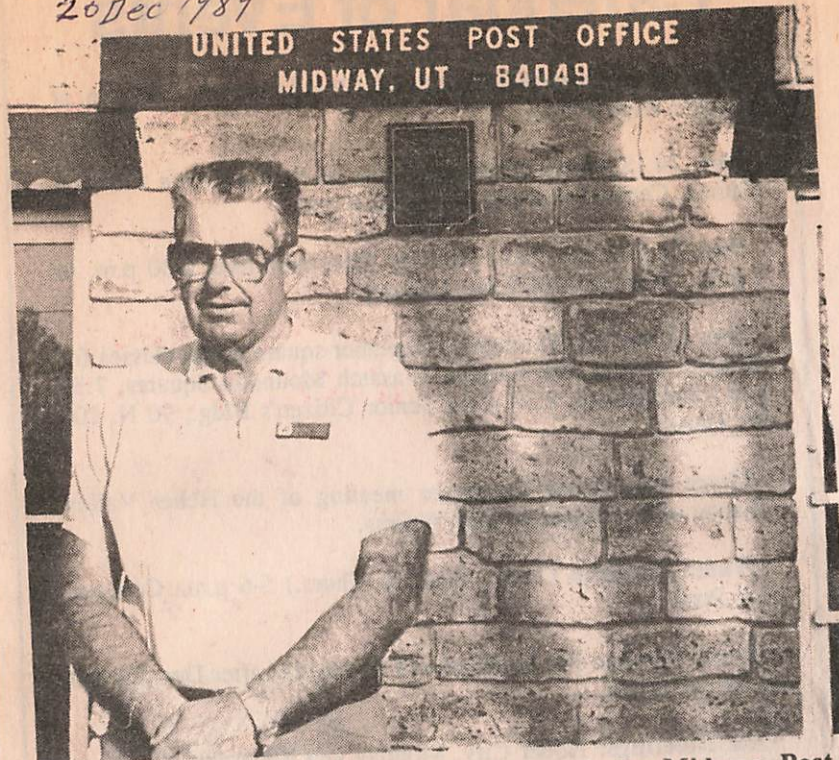


Midway Post Office Turns 125

20 Dec 1989



Postmaster Kay Probst stands in front of the Midway Post Office, which turned 125 years old on Dec. 7. The present building is only 25 years old.

Dec. 7, 1989 was the 125th birthday of the Midway Post Office. There was no celebration, no cake with candles and, in fact, the day would have passed without notice if the postmaster, Kay Probst, hadn't received a request from a stamp collector to put a birthday postmark on some postcards he supplied.

When Probst became the postmaster, he put together the following list of his predecessors, provided by the Post Office Bureau of Operations and the National Archives and Records Service, in Washington, D.C.:

- Silas Smith, Dec. 7, 1864 to May 11, 1865;
- David Van Wagoner, May 12, 1865;
- Mary E. Watkins, Jan. 4, 1898;
- Elizabeth B. Epperson, Feb. 5, 1917;

- Cora Bigler, July 26, 1918;
- Naomi Burgener, June 25, 1921;
- Juanita Zenger, April 30, 1959;
- Kay Probst, June 21, 1963.

Probst said Van Wagoner resigned as postmaster for about three months, but apparently no one else wanted the job because he was reappointed June 23, 1868.

Probst said Watkins ran the post office from a one-room store, owned by her family. He didn't know exactly where it was before that but, for the most part, the post office has been located on, or near the corner where it now stands. An old building was torn down, and construction on the present building was begun in 1939, on the same site, Probst said. From then until the new building was completed in 1943, post office business was conducted in the nearby "Old German Hall."

